

Barbara Kutchera, BVM, Papers 1967-2003, undated

Creator: Barbara Kutchera, BVM (1935-2003)

Extent: 2 linear feet (4 boxes)

Language: English,

Repository: Women and Leadership Archives, Loyola University Chicago

Administration Information

Access Restrictions: None

Usage Restrictions: Copyright for materials created by Barbara Kutchera has been transferred to the Women and Leadership Archives.

Preferred Citation: Identification of item, date, box #, folder #, Barbara Kutchera Papers, Women and Leadership Archives, Loyola University Chicago.

Provenance: This collection was donated to the Women and Leadership Archives by Kathryn Kucera, biological sister of Barbara Kutchera, on July 15, 2011.

Processor: Kristin Emery, August 2011

Processing Information: Finding aid updated June 2025.

Separations: Less than 0.75 linear ft. of duplicate or extraneous material was removed.

See Also: Kathryn Kucera Papers in the Women and Leadership Archives and the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Archives, Dubuque, Iowa.

Biographical History

Barbara A. Kutchera was born on October 17, 1935 to Harold and Eleanor Kutchera, of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She was the youngest of three, following Kathryn and Thomas. Barbara attended Christ the King School and the Holy Angels Academy. Upon graduation, she expressed her wish to become a nun, but her father insisted that she complete two years of college first. Once she completed this requirement at Marquette University, she began the process of becoming a member of the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (BVMs). On April 23, 1955, Barbara wrote a letter to Mother Josita, asking to join the BVMs. She went to Mount Carmel in late 1955 and was received into the order on March 19, 1956. She took her vows two years later and pronounced her final vows in 1963.

Sister Barbara earned a Bachelor of Arts from Clarke College in 1959 and, later, a Master of Arts from Marquette University in 1964, and began teaching at Clarke College where she remained for another 28 years. She continued her education throughout her career, attending seminars and conferences including a year of study at the University of California-Berkley, and a summer program that was funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities in 1977.

In 1992, Sr. Barbara left Clarke and made plans for the creation of a BVM ministry site in Milwaukee. That same year, she was diagnosed with ovarian cancer. Sr. Barbara moved to Milwaukee and successfully worked with incarcerated women in the Milwaukee County Jail and with women at the Shade Tree Family Clinic until the end of her life.

Sr. Barbara traveled extensively during her life, taking a mission trip to Quito, Ecuador in 1979, and to work with migrant workers in California and North Carolina. She published many articles in *Salt* magazine and gave many workshops and talks.

Sr. Barbara died on May 11, 2003 after battling ovarian cancer for eleven years.

Scope and Content

This collection spans from 1967 to 2003 with some undated material. There is some diversity of content and format including correspondence, published and unpublished writings, travel and scrapbook materials. The collection is primarily focused on the latter years of Sr. Barbara's life. The collection is organized alphabetically.

Series 1: Personal, 1967-2003, undated, Boxes 1-2

This series contains material related to Sr. Barbara's personal life, with a heavy emphasis on her later years. There is correspondence that she received from friends and family during her battle with cancer and material related to her trip to Prague. Some ephemera is included in this collection, illustrating some of Sr. Barbara's interests. Finally, several newspaper articles about social justice issues and a collection of spiritual material are included in this series. (See correspondence that Sr. Barbara sent to her sister, Kathryn, in the Kathryn Kucera Papers also at the Women and Leadership Archives.)

Series 2: Professional, 1976-2003, undated, Boxes 2-3

This series focuses on Sr. Barbara's career, both as a teacher and as a BVM. There is correspondence from students and colleagues, material related to Sister Barbara's mission trip to the Mision Cristo de los Andes in 1979 (including a handwritten personal journal describing her experiences there), and her application and related materials from the National Endowment for the Humanities Grant that she received. There is a file with the materials for her Meneve Dunham Award nomination, including numerous letters of recommendation from students and colleagues. Some of Sister Barbara's Clarke College performance reviews are included, along with evaluations that her students wrote about her classes. Some published articles written by Sr. Barbara are included, as well as material from several talks and workshops that she presented.

Series 3: Audiovisual and 3-D Objects, 1979, 1986, 1988, undated, Boxes 3-4

This collection includes photographs (both color and black and white), color slides, and a large leather-bound photo album. The photographs span from 1979 until the later years of Sr. Barbara's life. Many of the photographs are from her 1979 mission trip to Quito, Ecuador. The slides are all from the Quito mission trip, and there is also a paper guide included that provides captions for all the slides in Slide Box 1. Likewise, the photo album contains material solely from Sr. Barbara's mission trip to Quito. The photographs included in this album are all black and white.

Subjects:

British literature
Clarke College (Dubuque, Iowa)
Barbara Kutchera, BVM (1967-2003)
Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Dubuque, IA)

Box	Folder	Title	Dates
		<i>Barbara Kutchera, BVM, Papers 1967-2003, undated</i>	
		Series 1: Personal, 1967-2003, undated	
1	1	Correspondence: Received	undated
1	2	Correspondence: Received	undated
1	3	Correspondence: Received	undated
1	4	Correspondence: Received	undated
1	5	Correspondence: Received	1979, 1993-2001
1	6	Correspondence: Received	2002
1	7	Correspondence: Received	2003
1	8	Correspondence: Received	2003
1	9	Correspondence: Received	2003
2	1	Czech Republic Trip: Clippings	1993-1995, undated
2	2	Czech Republic Trip: Travel Plans	1995
2	3	Ephemera	1995-2003, undated
2	4	Funeral Materials	2003
2	5	Health: Correspondence	2001
2	6	Health: Miscellaneous	2001, undated
2	7	Health: Notes	undated
2	8	Health: Related Clippings	1981-1999, undated
2	9	Newspaper Clippings: Miscellaneous	1967-2001, undated
2	10	Spirituality	1975-2002, undated
		Series 2: Professional, 1976-2003, undated	
2	11	Correspondence	1988-2001, undated
2	12	Meneve Dunham Award	1987-1989
2	13	Mission Trips: Quito, Ecuador	undated
2	14	Mission Trips: Quito, Ecuador	1979
3	1	National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminar	1977
3	2	Performance Reviews: Clarke College	1989-1990
3	3	Published Articles	1990-1998, undated
3	4	Shade Tree Garden Project	2000-2001, undated
3	5	Student Evaluations: Clarke College	undated
3	6	<i>Salt Magazine</i>	2002-2003

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3	7	Talks	1999, 2001, undated
3	8	Teaching Materials	1976-2000, undated
3	9	Teaching Materials	2001-2003
3	10	Teaching Materials: Nature Unit	undated
3	11	Workshops: Finding God in Suffering	undated
3	12	Workshops: Related Materials	1990-1994, undated
		Series 3: Audiovisual and 3-D Objects, 1979, 1986, 1988, undated	
3	13	Photographs: Miscellaneous	undated
3	14	Photographs: Miscellaneous	1988, 2002, undated
3	15	Photographs: Quito Mission Trip	undated
3	16	Photographs: Quito Mission Trip	undated
3	17	Photographs: Quito Mission Trip	undated
3	18	Photographs: Quito Mission Trip	1979
3	19	Photographs: Quito Mission Trip	1979
3	20	Photographs: Summer Migrant Ministry	1986
3	21	Slides: Guide to Slides in Slide Box 1	undated
4	1	Slides: Quito Mission Trip	1979, undated
4	2	Slides: Quito Mission Trip	1979, undated
4	3	Photo Album	undated